

**GATEWAY PLUS ACTION GRANT
PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES**

CITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES
Chelsea	Addison-Orange Neighborhood Revitalization Plan: Recommendations for foreclosure assistance and homeownership opportunities, infrastructure improvements, public safety measures, enhancements to major gateways, new open/green spaces, and measures to integrate benefits of proposed development in the adjacent Everett Avenue urban renewal area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Established Washington Avenue Gateway Association. ➤ Planning Board is increasing its role in establishing planning policy. ➤ Code enforcement program is expanding into neighborhood; receivership action taken on one property. ➤ City started Trash Initiative to address improper storage & placement of trash barrels and related litter & rodent problems. ➤ Zoning permit approval for former Cary Square taxicab garage for redevelopment as 20-units of market rate housing. ➤ Zoning permit approval of 238-unit apartment complex in urban renewal area (overlaps the target area). ➤ In addition, the City uses its GPAG Plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advise land use boards on special permits and site plan issues, resulting in the siting of neighborhood-oriented businesses in Cary Square. ▪ Guide on-going planning for the reconstruction of Washington Avenue, resulting in a plan that is responsive to neighborhood needs. ▪ Support funding requests, including its request for TIP funds (unsuccessful) for the reconstruction of Washington Avenue. Instead, the City will use local funds for two-year reconstruction project; scheduled to begin in June 2011. ▪ City qualified for a KaBOOM! Playground on Spruce Street in the spring 2011 funding round. Construction to begin July 2011. The City is currently exploring creating additional open space in the area through reuse of tax title properties.
Chicopee	Chicopee Downtown Revitalization Plan: Strategic plan to increase housing options downtown, including homeownership and rental opportunities, homelessness prevention, and the redevelopment of an underutilized site for mixed-use development. The plan also addresses the beautification of the Center Street Gateway and the need for a strategic market plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DHCD approved downtown 40R district providing \$600,000 Incentive Payment; will be used to support downtown revitalization. ➤ Phase I of downtown streetscape improvements to be completed in June 2011, including sidewalks, street trees and Market Square Plaza (redevelopment with clock); \$625,000 funding from CDBG-R and CDBG. ➤ Phase 2 downtown sidewalk program on Center Street in design stage with anticipated start fall 2011 and completion July 2012. ➤ Implementation of Chicopee Center Streetlight Improvements Program, including 205 new energy efficient LED light fixtures to improve the quantity and quality of lighting; 80 fixtures purchased with \$129,100 in Dept. of Energy EECBG funding and remaining fixtures and installation with \$200,000 of CEL funds. ➤ Reconstruction of School, West and Chapman Streets underway with expected completion date of June 2012; funded with \$400,000 in CDBG and \$308,000 in city funds. ➤ EPA Planning Grant of \$200,000 awarded through joint application with PVPC. Planning process will look at approximately 10 brownfield sites in the West End of Chicopee Center, including a review of environmental conditions at key sites, a market study and an infrastructure inventory. The planning process will establish redevelopment strategies for these sites and conclude with a detailed road map for plan implementation. ➤ Completed Phase I of feasibility study of former historic library in downtown (across from City Hall) to find a reuse that is compatible with existing site constraints. Phase II is underway, including feasibility of housing the School Department at this site. ➤ Chicopee Neighborhood Development Corporation completed substantial rehabilitation (total development cost of \$407,632 with local HOME subsidy of \$227,634) of a 2-family dwelling and sold to owner occupant. A second property is under contract on the same street for a similar project.

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Fitchburg	Elm Street Neighborhood Revitalization Plan: Tracks critical property information for foreclosed and abandoned properties, recommending actions to support housing stabilization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City and Twin City CDC have undertaken receivership, acquisition, demolition, and rehab to address foreclosure and abandoned buildings; Over 30 units affected by this effort with costs >\$2.2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation of 3-family rental property with \$202,481 of HOME and NSP funding. ▪ Additional receivership and rehabilitation of 20 units is ongoing with NSP-2 (MHIC); estimated cost >\$1M. ▪ Construction underway of 3 new units with >\$700,000 in HOME funding. ▪ Demolition of 2 abandoned buildings (total of 11 units) with \$80,000 in NSP funding. ▪ Working with MHIC on new NSP project involving two High Street properties which will be combined into a single project containing 2 new units (1 homeownership and 1 rental). ▪ The City is proceeding with 2 new homeowner rehabilitation projects (summer 2011) and continues to work with the Twin City CDC to acquire 3/5 Johnson Street for a combined demolition/new single family project. ➤ Public improvements underway, including sidewalks and streets with >\$250,000 in CDBG and CDBG-R funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elm St, Johnson St and Lowe Passway sidewalk and street resurfacing project expected to be completed late summer 2011. ➤ The Elm Street Neighborhood Association is planning a neighborhood clean-up and improvements to its community garden on Prichard Street to prepare for the 2011 growing season.
Haverhill	Haverhill Lower Acre Revitalization Strategy: Vision plan recommending quality of life improvements and revitalization strategies, including improvements to the Winter Street gateway to downtown.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Installed hanging planter baskets for the first time in target area. ➤ City hired MVPC to analyze the quality of the roadways, sidewalks and tree pits in the CDBG Target Area which includes the Lower Acre Neighborhood. The City is scheduling the installation of pavement, sidewalks, new street signs, additional street sweepings, and street tree planting, prioritizing those streets identified as most deficient in its Plan. Tree plantings will begin in spring 2011. ➤ MVRTA and MVPC recently completed a transportation report that includes Lower Acre Neighborhood. ➤ South of the target area in the downtown, 57units of mixed-income housing, the Hayes building recently opened by the Planning Office for Urban Affairs and has achieved full occupancy. ➤ With funding from an Adams Art Grant, the local art community is employing local teens to link the downtown to the Lower Acre Neighborhood with public arts projects, including public concerts and cultural productions. ➤ The City's 315-space parking garage and multi-modal transit center in Railroad Square is over 50% complete. ➤ The YMCA is working to redevelop the Whittier Building on Winter Street for programmatic use. ➤ A Gateway City Park Grant is funding improvement to Swasey and Cashman Fields, including new waterless restrooms, tool maintenance sheds, new playgrounds, and a canoe launch on the Little River.

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Holyoke	<p>Holyoke's Center City Vision Plan: Comprehensive study to guide the preparation of an urban renewal plan, including data collection and analysis to identify key parcels for housing, commercial and industrial development in 4 census tracts (Churchill, Prospect Heights/Downtown, the Flats, and South Holyoke Neighborhoods).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Redevelopment Authority is drafting an urban renewal plan. A Citizen Advisory Committees was established; currently reviewing parking and zoning changes and design guidelines. ➤ Area named a Growth District in March 2012 and named the Holyoke Innovation District; location of High Performance Computing Center (HPCC). ➤ Groundbreaking for \$168M green HPCC with partners: Commonwealth of MA, University Consortium (Harvard, MIT, BU, UMass, and Northeastern), CISCO, and EMC. Demolition work on the HPCC site began May 2011. Related activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$125M BU grant for Interdisciplinary Research Institute. ▪ Announcement of CISCO Systems' Smart + Connected Communities Program aimed at improving City's communication for public safety, education, health care, and government. ▪ Presentation to the Innovation District Task Force of all the GPAG initiatives underway in City Center. ▪ \$200,000 grant from the MA Technology Collaborative for the Innovation District Task Force to support the Innovation District and implementation of an innovation-based economic development strategy that can be leveraged to revitalize the local and regional economies. ▪ Five Colleges Inc. to pursue a National Science Foundation Grant to initiate an array of community-based education programs related to the development of the HPCC and to get more Holyoke residents into the educational pathways that can lead to IT careers. ➤ Phase II of the Canalwalk design underway; funding sources include: FTA, MassDOT, Holyoke Gas & Electric, and city CDBG & General Funds. ➤ \$50,000 EPA Smart Growth Grant award to continue its efforts to develop a TOD rail node. ➤ \$122,000 Gateway City Parks Grant award to produce a design for the restoration of Veterans Park. ➤ City is participating in the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the Hartford region; using \$225,000 grant from PVPC for in-depth master planning process for the area around the train station – the Depot Square Redevelopment & Revitalization Project – to assess what infrastructure and other amenities are needed to support passenger rail. ➤ Used CDBG-R to pay for Dwight Street enhancements; partially based on the walkability assessments completed through the Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council. ➤ Completed walkability assessments in 2 of 4 target area neighborhoods to develop priorities for sidewalk improvements. ➤ Developing network of bike lanes in downtown with the Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council; funded with a Kellogg Food & Fitness Grant (1 of only 9 awarded nationwide). ➤ Gateway City Parks Grant awarded to connect Pulaski Park to Mitchell Field ➤ Drafted a Complete Streets policy for review. ➤ Construction is set to begin (by July 2011) on a 4.5 megawatt solar power project in City. The \$18M - \$20M project will put 18,400 US-built solar panels on two sites. ➤ Named a Green Community in 2010. ➤ September 2010 opening of the Holyoke Transportation Center a joint development project of the City Of Holyoke, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and the Holyoke Intermodal Facility, LLC, a private development firm. The project converted the former Holyoke Fire Department headquarters in Downtown Holyoke into a facility that will provide not only bus service, but daycare and preschool programs, as well as adult education classes.

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Lawrence	<p>The Arlington Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy: Revitalization strategy, addressing foreclosures and focusing on housing, commercial development, public improvements, zoning, and quality of life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arlington Neighborhood designated in the City's new HUD 5-year Consolidated Plan (July 2010 – June 2015) as a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area. The GPAG Plan formed the basis for the designation and was attached as part of the Consolidated Plan submission. ➤ A portion of the Arlington Neighborhood designated by MHIC for targeting of NSP 2 funding to finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties. ➤ Two newly constructed homeownership units on formerly vacant city-owned land have been completed and occupied using NSP 1 funding. ➤ Plan used in successful application for \$500,000 Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education for the Arlington Elementary School district. Awarded in September 2010, the "Arlington Community of Excellence" was one of only 21 such grants approved nationwide. The purpose of the grant is to transform distressed neighborhoods into vibrant centers of health care, social services, and public education to help improve the academic fortunes of children. Plan not only played a large role in the application, it has also provided the Community Development Dept. an entrée into continuing participation in the Promise Neighborhoods planning activity; Implementation Grant application to be submitted in June 2011. ➤ The City continues to use its Plan as a foundation for further planning and in the current year intends to: (1) focus efforts, (2) set priorities and schedules for work and (3) improve cataloguing and analysis of performance. ➤ Received \$2.6M Gateway City Parks Grant to design and construct the Spicket River Greenway, part of which is located in Arlington Neighborhood. Construction will begin in July 2011. ➤ Awarded a KaBOOM Playground (with playground equipment). Installation at the Arlington School playground is scheduled for June 2011; volunteers hosted by the City and New Balance will do the installation. City will use this event to help create a neighborhood organization. ➤ Implementation of improvements is underway in the Howard Playstead Park on the northern edge of the neighborhood, including lights and a community building to house a concession stand, bathrooms and storage space for the area's Little League teams; funded with CDBG funds and a PARC Program Grant. Completion is anticipated June 2011.

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Leominster	Comb & Carriage/French Hill Gateway Plus Action Plan: Revitalization strategy, including land use, housing rehabilitation, and infrastructure improvements (streets, sidewalks, intersections, and gateways).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Historic Whitney Building to be redeveloped into 40 units of housing affordable to very low income in spring 2011. Related activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$1M in NSP1 for acquisition and demolition (metal shed buildings.) ▪ \$500,000 in state historic tax credits awarded. ▪ \$855,200 in CDAG funds awarded for infrastructure improvements to support the project, including traffic signals and replacement of streets, sidewalks and drainage; will begin in spring 2011. ▪ Chapter 90 and HUD 108 loan funds to be used in conjunction with CDAG funds to rebuild sidewalks. ▪ \$137,000 CDBG-R grant awarded in 2010; funded installation of sewer line on Whitney Street, adjacent to CDAG-funded street improvement. ➤ Revitalization of the Hartman Building underway; will provide 40 units of working family affordable housing. Twin Cities CDC has completed demolition of back portion of building and City is completing infrastructure improvements. ➤ \$155,000 in Gateway City Parks Program funds awarded to produce design and construction documents for Monoosnoc Brook Riverwalk; will connect downtown to the neighborhood. Phase I is underway. ➤ Majority of zoning changes recommended by Plan have been incorporated into proposed zoning revisions currently under consideration by City. ➤ City pursuing HUD 108 loan to address other deteriorated sidewalks in neighborhood. ➤ City has completed analysis of 100 properties on Mechanic Street, the main artery through the neighborhood, as an early step in process to improve the street; will apply for MassWorks assistance in fall 2011. ➤ City plans to target 90% of its CDBG funding to the neighborhood going forward.

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Lowell	<p>A City-Building Vision for the Hamilton Canal District and the Neighborhoods: Vision Plan examining the housing, physical and economic development connectivity of four surrounding neighborhoods to the Hamilton Canal District; making recommendations to harness positive and mitigate negative impacts posed by this redevelopment project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Completed \$770,000 in pedestrian & traffic improvements to increase connectivity between the Hamilton Canal District (HCD) and the Gallaher Terminal. ➤ Redevelopment underway of Appleton Mills into 130 units of live/work artist space; \$13M Growth District Initiative grant and \$35.6M in loans from MassHousing. ➤ Redevelopment underway of Hamilton Manufacturing Co. into Hamilton Canal Lofts with 236 housing units. ➤ Master Plan completed for redesign of South Common in Back Central Neighborhood using PARC funds; construction design plans currently in development with Phase I of park enhancements beginning summer 2011. ➤ Neighborhood Planner hired to fill position vacant since 2007; responsibilities include implementation of the City Building Vision recommendations. ➤ Working with Cambodian community to highlight the culture in Lower Highland business district to create "Little Cambodia. Implementation of physical improvements (e.g., streetlights, landscape elements, pedestrian facilities, etc.), street signs, banners (announcing entrance to district), and wayfinding that highlights Cambodian culture, businesses, and other attractions is underway with \$350,000 in CDBG funding. ➤ Rehabilitation of Clemente Park in Lower Highlands Neighborhood nearing completion; using \$25,000 in CDBG funding. ➤ CDBG funding for signage and façade improvement program for businesses in target neighborhoods. ➤ Intersection improvements completed at a number of intersections in downtown to improve safety and ADA accessibility. ➤ Reconstruction of a portion of the Western Canal Walk through the Acre Neighborhood began spring 2011. Project being completed by City in partnership with Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP); \$1.739 M funded by LNHP. ➤ Back Central Neighborhood designated as 2012 neighborhood for City Manager's Neighborhood Initiative (similar to Lower Highlands in 2011). ➤ Jackson Street and Canal Street Bridge improvements, connecting Downtown with HCD and Gallagher Terminal; \$4.2 M project funded with \$1 million MassWorks CDAG; \$2 million U.S. EDA Infrastructure Grant; \$500,000+ CDBG; \$300,000 Growth District Initiative, and other city grant funding sources. ➤ Continuation of Downtown pedestrian and roadway improvements scheduled for summer 2011, including improvements to Central Street corridor. ➤ Appleton Mills project in the HCD nearing completion; occupancy started in April 2011. ➤ Hamilton Canal Lofts project Phase I anticipated to start construction June 2011, with the rehabilitation of 100,000 SF of space into the new home of the Lowell Community Health Center; will bring over 300 jobs to the site. ➤ City applied for multiple grants to support public art development in Clemente Park and other sites in Downtown Lowell; awaiting award announcements. ➤ City, with LNHP and other partners, are continuing to work on the Trolley Expansion Project; recently submitted an application for a Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program grant through the FTA for \$1.5 M to support trolley expansion design and engineering.

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Lynn	Downtown Market Street Vision Plan: Redevelopment strategy, addressing housing, business development, green space, and infrastructure improvements to connect this area to ongoing revitalization efforts in downtown.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$5.5M relocation of overhead power lines on the Waterfront is complete and there is active developer interest; a catalyst for revitalization not only of the Waterfront but also for the contiguous Market Street Gateway. The Waterfront Redevelopment Plan is complete and was recently presented to the City Council for approval; it is \$1M under budget. ➤ \$1M from MA Seaport Advisory Council for infrastructure improvements along the Waterfront. ➤ \$5M HUD 108 loan for Waterfront redevelopment and for expansion of Lynn Community Health Center in downtown; will create 100 jobs. ➤ Community Development Office creating a facade improvement program for Market St. ➤ City's EDIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submitted an application for a 2011 Brownfield Assessment Grant for downtown ▪ Developing long term plans to acquire property in the downtown by eminent domain for redevelopment ▪ Working with the owner of One Market St. on redevelopment plans ➤ Police department provided additional foot patrols during the summer months in downtown. ➤ The relocation and construction of the new Visiting Nurse Association of Great Lynn Headquarter, located at the upper end of Market Street, is underway. The new \$13 M building will keep and/or relocate 300+ jobs in the City's Market Street Corridor. The construction is utilizing a parcel of underdeveloped property adjacent to the Central Square MBTA parking garage and is leasing spaces inside the facility for VNA employees.
Methuen	Methuen Development Feasibility Analysis: Redevelopment feasibility of three sites, two for mixed-income housing and one in downtown for mixed-use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lowell-based organization in discussions with City regarding proposal to construct a 21 unit affordable assisting living facility at the Mt. Carmel site; area will need to be rezoned. ➤ CDBG-R funds used for soil remediation and construction of a parking lot next to the Osgood St./Railroad St/River St. site and down the street from Mt. Carmel site. ➤ . In addition the relocation and construction of the new Visiting Nurse Association of Great Lynn Headquarter, located at the upper end of Market Street is going on. The new building costing roughly 13 million dollars will keep and/or relocate 300+ jobs in the City of Lynn Market Street corridor. The construction is utilizing a parcel of underdeveloped property adjacent to the Central Square MBTA parking garage and is leasing spaces inside the facility for VNA employees.
New Bedford	Downtown New Bedford Revitalization & Redevelopment Study: Assessment of redevelopment potential of downtown, recognizing the need for infrastructure improvements, creating a pedestrian friendly downtown, encouraging mixed uses, and building partnerships with the National Park Service and area institutions of higher education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contributed to City's new Master Plan, <i>New Bedford 2020</i>; adopted October 2010 ➤ Aided in Gateway City Parks Grant award for area of downtown. ➤ Will be used in updating zoning and parking requirements in downtown. ➤ "Offered use of a new avenue on successfully conducting public outreach." ➤ Provided model for similar effort in another neighborhood, "Upper Acushnet Avenue Planning Study." ➤ Useful in Preservation Forum and Preservation Coalition held in October 2010.

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Pittsfield	<p>Housing Needs Analysis & Development Recommendations -- Westside and Morningside Neighborhoods: Assessment of housing needs in two neighborhoods adjacent to downtown and an action plan addressing those needs, including assembling blighted vacant property for future development, housing rehabilitation and open space development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Steps taken to create a park/protected open space along the Housatonic River, which can be used by the public as passive recreation space and provide access to river: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acquisition of 3 parcels for the construction of 2 canoe launches as well as access to the river, one at Wahconah Park and one at a recently acquired parcel in the Westside Neighborhood. ▪ The City continues to look to acquire additional parcels along the Westside branch of the river. ➤ Study's housing inventory provided basis for City's quick identification of properties being returned to productive use with NSP1 funds; development recommendations provided City with the most effective reuse strategies for the properties in question; \$1.315M in NSP1 funds. ➤ Study was instrumental in preparing City's HUD Five Action Year Plan for fiscal years 2011-2015, providing relevant topical information about current conditions and recommendations for future policy. ➤ Study data used to support City's recent successful application for \$306,191 in MassWorks-CDAG funds for infrastructure improvements around the vacant Silk Mill property. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Silk Mill project, the adaptive reuse of an abandoned mill building into 45 units of affordable and workforce housing, is scheduled to close in July 2011. This is a key project for the Morningside Neighborhood.
Revere	<p>Shirley Avenue Gateway Initiative: Strategic plan to improve many "quality of life" features, including streets, sidewalks, parks, and other open space; to address housing conditions, especially for renters; and to enhance the commercial vitality of area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shirley Avenue work characterized as "impetus for all of these neighborhood activities." ➤ City provided CDBG funds to CAPIC for employment assessment center and job training facility at 65 Nahant Ave. CAPIC established a Workforce Development Program to serve neighborhood residents. This job training center is established and up and running. ➤ Basis for brownfields assessment application to address abandoned/foreclosed properties in neighborhood. ➤ The Revere Beach Partnership is in the process of organizing nutrition and fitness workshops within this area and the summer kayaking program will be starting July 2011 along Revere Beach at the foot of Shirley Ave. ➤ The City has maintained its commitment to sidewalk reconstruct and roadway improvements in neighborhood streets, including Hitchborn St. (scheduled to begin July 2011), Franklin Ave., Centennial Ave., and Summit Ave; using Chapter 90 funds. ➤ Seeking funding for infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, street trees) for Nahant Avenue and Walden Street. ➤ The City, through the efforts of Revere Neighborhood Developers (RND), has completed the rehabilitation of 14-16 Nahant Ave. with the use of HOME, NSP and MHP funds; created 6 low and moderate income units (these are all currently occupied). ➤ Construction is underway for the conversion of the Walden Street fire station, which was sold to RND and directly abuts 14-16 Nahant Ave, for conversion to 7 affordable elderly units. ➤ The City has initiated an adopt a park program in the Shirley Avenue neighborhood to encourage area residents to help the City maintain and undertake improvements of open space as well as the creation of urban gardening plots throughout the neighborhood.
Salem	<p>Bridge Street Neck Neighborhood Revitalization Plan: Vision plan identifying preferred strategies to stabilize and revitalize mixed-use neighborhood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Received \$15,000 grant (\$10,000 city match) from Mass. Historical Commission for a Survey and Planning Grant of historical properties in Bridge St. Neck Neighborhood to establish a Neighborhood Conservation District. This project, currently in process, is expected to be complete by the end of September 2011. ➤ Unsuccessful in devoting resources to Bridge St. Neck rezoning ➤ Sought to be included as a LISC/SGA "Great Neighborhoods" site and as an "illustrative project" in MAPC's "Sustainable Communities" application – not chosen by either organization.

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Springfield	<p>South End Urban Renewal Plan Amendment #8: Proposed amendment to existing urban renewal plan to allow for expansion and redevelopment of Emerson Wight Park, including land use changes, permitting requirements and relocation plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$6.6M City Bond (authorized in 2008) expended on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main St. improvements ▪ Gemini Site environmental and site improvements ▪ Implementation of the South End Urban Renewal Plan Amendment #8 (work in progress) ▪ Other South End projects and minor improvements ➤ Additional expenditures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$1.1M FY09 CDBG Funds for South End related activities including Master Plan, blight reduction, additional code enforcement, etc. ▪ \$200,000 FY10 CDBG Stimulus Funding for sidewalk repairs throughout the neighborhood ▪ \$100,000 FY 09 PDF Grant for South End/ Hollywood District/ SHA Marble Apartments Study ▪ \$30,000 FY10 Gateway Parks Grant for Emerson Wight Park design ▪ \$650,000 NSP funds for demolition of 2 commercial buildings and 4 houses; development underway of 2 new single-family homes for owner-occupancy ➤ In process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$300,000 FY11-12 CDBG for Emerson Wight Park construction ▪ \$2M in HOME funds to redevelop the Hollywood buildings (not yet fully-funded projects; seeking LIHTC) ➤ \$500,000 PARC Grant for Emerson Wight Park construction (anticipated to start summer 2011) ➤ Seven blighted properties have been demolished for the redevelopment of the Emerson Wight Park. Design of the park expansion has been completed and construction is anticipated to start July 2011. ➤ First Resources LLC was awarded state and federal historic tax credits for the renovation of the Hollywood Apartments; work will begin in Spring 2012.
Taunton	<p>Downtown Taunton Development Study: Downtown development study, including the redevelopment feasibility of three key historic sites for mixed-use development, including affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Neighborhood Corp. is working with owners of the "Union Block" to develop a mixed-use project; completed financial pro forma and hired architect; currently investigating sources of funding including LIHTC and historic tax credits. ➤ Received \$983,000 Gateway City Parks Grant to design and construct an urban park and riverwalk along the Miller River in back of City Hall; using \$258,000 in CDBG funds as a match; construction is underway. ➤ Established a BID; developing a capital improvement/infrastructure program for Downtown ➤ Other projects for Downtown include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private-public development of abandoned building for medical space ▪ Redevelopment of old Taunton Mall & River Mall on Oak Street ▪ Implementation of a Micro Enterprise Loan Assistance Program ▪ Taunton Brownfield Program funding to assess land adjacent to Downtown ▪ Construction underway on \$86M Trial Court ▪ Created real estate site finder that includes downtown properties ▪ Considering urban renewal plan amendment ➤ The Taunton Housing Authority was awarded a \$22M HUD Hope VI grant to rebuild Fairfax Gardens into a mixed-income rental project. ➤ \$250,000 in CDBG funds have been committed to downtown sidewalk and infrastructure improvements; Phase I is under design.

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Westfield	<p>Re-thinking Downtown Westfield: Comprehensive Downtown Housing and Economic Development Action Plan: Revitalization plan that prioritizes strategies and actions, including expanding housing opportunities and creating a mixed-use downtown.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Downtown citizens committee continues to meet to advance redevelopment, including a waterfront park and a rail trail. ➤ The Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail-Trail has been reestablished and become strong advocates for completing the downtown portion of the bike trail. ➤ Westfield College opened an Art Gallery. ➤ \$12M ARRA funded MassHighway project underway, including total reconstruction of Main St. and Broad St. -- street widening, sidewalks, lighting, plantings, streetscape, and a new downtown parking lot. ➤ City Council approved \$1.8M bond to reconstruct Park Square (the downtown's common) including walkways, lighting, plantings, furniture, and new bandstand/pavilion. Contract awarded. ➤ Completed a \$5,000 Phase 1 Environmental Assessment of one downtown brownfield site (City Cleaners); completed demolition of building and considering site for additional municipal parking. ➤ Began \$19,800 Phase 2 Environmental Assessment on 3 acre brownfield site in the heart of the downtown. ➤ Completed design work for Chapman Playground Rehabilitation Project (neighborhood playground serving one of the downtown's Environmental Justice neighborhoods) ; funded by \$90,000 Gateway City Park Grant. ➤ Awarded \$500,000 FY11 PARC Program Grant to construct Chapman Playground; using an additional \$214,000 in city funds; currently out to bid. ➤ Spent \$44,000 abating and demolishing one condemned private structure and put out-to-bid for the abatement and demolition of two condemned city owned structures and the abatement of another (\$200,000 estimated cost). ➤ Completed abatement and put out to bid demolition of two condemned city-owned structures and the abatement of another (\$200,000 estimated cost). ➤ MassHighway is completing the \$57.7M Great River Bridge Project including new riverfront parks on both sides of the Westfield River in the plan's newly designated Riverfront District and Depot Square District. ➤ Planning Board approved a Special Permit for a new 14,667 s.f. Rocky's Ace Hardware Store (\$2.5M private investment) and for a new 17,000-24,000 s.f. three-story office building in the (\$3.5-4M private investment). ➤ Westfield State University and private developer created 106 new beds of student housing in the downtown. Westfield State University Foundation issued a Request for Proposals for the old Court House for 90 additional beds of student housing downtown. ➤ DOMUS completed renovation of three downtown building creating 16 new affordable housing units in the downtown. ➤ City and BID spend \$9,000 on promotional campaign rebranding downtown with a plan for an additional \$10-15,000 in expenditures.
Worcester	<p>The Beacon/Federal Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and Project: Market analysis of existing housing and building stock and potential housing opportunities; and recommendations to create a sustainable, mixed-use, walkable, and safe destination for business and living.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working with 6-8 large property owners to undertake redevelopment of their properties, including identification of funding.

5/27/11

